

Message Text

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EXDIS TOSEC 310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: SPEAKING TRIP TO HOUSTON
REFERENCE: SECTO 132

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBURGER

1. WE HAVE EXAMINED THE CONSIDERATIONS RAISED IN REFTTEL AND
NOW RECOMMEND YOU AGREE TO DO THE HOUSTON SPEECH (AND
ANCILLARY MEETINGS WITH EDITORS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, ETC.)
ON MARCH 3.

2. HOUSTON WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH THE MARCH 3 DATE
AND PROMISES THEY CAN GET A GOOD CROWD AND GOOD PRESS
COVERAGE.

3. AS TO THE US-IRANIAN JOINT COMMISSION PROBLEM, NEA
ASSURES ME THAT ANSARY, THOUGH HIS PRESENT PLANS ARE NOT
FIRM, WOULD WITHOUT DOUBT BE PREPARED TO REMAIN HERE ON
MARCH 4 IF YOU WANTED TO DELAY YOUR DINNER UNTIL THEN.
NEA FEELS STRONGLY THAT UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES YOU
SHOULD AGREE TO A PRIVATE MEETING WITH ANSARY SOMETIME
ON THE 4TH PRIOR TO A BRIEF ATTENDANCE BY YOU AT THE
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WRAP-UP MEETING THAT AFTERNOON OF THE JOINT COMMISSION.

NEA WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOMMEND THAT YOU BE PRESENT

BRIEFLY AT THE OPENING SESSION (SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M.) OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON MARCH 3. THEY DON'T INSIST ON THE ESSENTIALITY OF THIS LATTER POINT, HOWEVER.

4. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SEVERAL POSSIBLE SCHEDULING COMPLICATIONS ON THE 3RD BUT NONE ARE UNMANAGEABLE. FIRST YOU ARE NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO SEE THE MURPHY COMMISSION SOMETIME ON MARCH 3. THAT CAN EASILY BE MOVED TO THE 4TH OR, INDEED, BE PUT OFF LONGER IF YOU PREFER.

5. SECOND, IT IS PROBABLE THAT PRESIDENT KATZIR OF ISRAEL WILL BE HERE ON THE 3RD AND 4TH; IN CONNECTION WITH A PRIVATE FUND RAISING VISIT TO THE U.S. THE ISRAELIS ARE HOPING THEY COULD GIVE A DINNER ON EITHER THE EVENING OF THE 3RD OR 4TH. THIS, I KNOW, OFFERS A COMPLICATION, BUT GIVEN KATZIR'S LARGELY CEREMONIAL POSITION, I WONDER WHETHER INGERSOLL COULDN'T FILL IN FOR YOU, USING THE ARGUMENT THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED YOURSELF TO TWO EVENTS ON THE 3RD AND 4TH.

6. IN SUM, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU AUTHORIZE US TO ARRANGE THE HOUSTON SPEECH FOR MARCH 3, POSTPONING YOUR DINNER TO MARCH 4 AND ASKING THE IRANIANS TO GIVE THEIR DINNER ON THE 3RD. SINCE THE HOUSTON AFFAIR IS A DINNER SPEECH, YOU COULD STAY IN WASHINGTON LONG ENOUGH TO STOP IN BRIEFLY AT THE OPENING OF THE US-IRANIAN JOINT COMMISSION ON THE MORNING OF THE 3RD. THIS IS, HOWEVER, AT BEST, A MARGINAL CONSIDERATION. I WOULD RECOMMEND, INSTEAD, THAT YOU DEPART WASHINGTON APPROXIMATELY 0800 MARCH 3, SCHEDULE MEDIA AND REGIONAL LEADERS SESSIONS IN LATE MORNING AND MID-AFTERNOON, WALK THROUGH PRE-DINNER RECEPTION, GIVE SPEECH AND DEPART HOUSTON SAME EVENING ARRIVING WASHINGTON POST-MIDNIGHT. ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO RETURN WASHINGTON TUESDAY MORNING; IF MONDAY SCHEDULE TOO HEAVY, YOU COULD DO EITHER MEDIA OR REGIONAL LEADERS SESSION PRIOR TO DEPARTURE TUESDAY MORNING ARRIVING WASHINGTON EARLY AFTERNOON.

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7. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO APPEAR BEFORE THE MURPHY COMMISSION ON MARCH 3, WE OUGHT TO TELL THEM SO, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE VICE PRESIDENT IS NOW A MEMBER. INGERSOLL

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